

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. There should always be fair and balanced airing of political content, especially during national elections. With media consolidation, the decision-making criteria is condensed down to a few corporate programming managers rather than a model where local stations can serve their own constituencies.

Sinclair, like all broadcasters, uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to look at service to the public. Thank you.